



SAFETY NEWS

Mike Huckabee, Governor

Vol. 26, No. 2 – Summer, 2003

James L. Salkeld, Director



(l to r) Terry Turner, Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commissioner, Dan Henry, President of United Steel Workers of America Local 4880, Ed Black, Arkansas Alcoa Operations Manager, Sid Degarmo, Alcoa Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Olan W. Reeves, Chairman of Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, and James L. Salkeld, Arkansas Department of Labor Director.

ALCOA ACKNOWLEDGED FOR REACHING THE TWO MILLION MARK

Employees of Alcoa World Chemicals Arkansas Operations in Bauxite recently celebrated earning a Two Million Work Hours Safety Award which they received for having worked more than 2 million consecutive hours without a lost day away from work due to a work related injury or illness. Two hundred ten employees accumulated the hours between October 1999 and April 2003.

The award was presented to company officials at a celebration held in the Alcoa Training Center on May 29, 2003. Following the acceptance speeches was a catered luncheon for employees as well as commemorative t-shirts.

"This is not something any one person does," said Eddie Black, Operations Manager at the facility, "We have steadily been improving safety, and its something we take very seriously. That's the reason we're celebrating today."

The Arkansas Department of Labor, the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Arkansas Insurance Department are proud to present safety awards to Arkansas companies who excel in occupational safety and health. For information on how your company can become eligible, contact Ann Sanders at the Arkansas Department of Labor at 501-682-4329 or e-mail ann.sanders@mail.state.ar.us

OSHA PROPOSES OVER \$600,000 IN PENALTIES AGAINST STATE COMPANIES

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the U.S.

Department of Labor cited two companies in Arkansas with proposed penalties totaling over \$600,000 in June.

OSHA cited an aluminum castings manufacturer employing about 600 workers with proposed penalties of \$431,650 for almost 50 alleged health and safety violations.

The company's inspection consisted of both safety and health components. Citations issued for their safety inspection included two alleged willful safety citations for failure to conduct annual inspections of energy control procedures and improper machine guarding. A willful violation is defined as an intentional disregard of or plain indifference to the OSHA law and regulation requirements.

Among the 26 alleged serious violations were failure to maintain safe clearances for mechanical handling equipment; not having covers or guardrails for open ditches and pits; not providing appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent employees from falling; failure to ensure proper operation of industrial trucks; failure to ensure proper installation and use of electrical equipment and failure to ensure that a qualified person tested

(contd. on page 3-See Penalties)



RAISING THE BAR IN HEALTH AND SAFETY

By Sharley Pettit
International Paper Company

How many times have you heard it? "Our goal is to send employees home with all that they brought to work." Arms, legs, fingers, toes...

A worthwhile goal, to be sure, but who would expect less? If your goal is for continuous improvement, you have to raise the bar. At International Paper in Conway, our goal is to send employees home **BETTER** than they reported to work. How?

Every employee receives a healthy living newsletter at home quarterly.

Our ergonomics program brings in specialists to review our processes, interview our employees and recommend improvements.

We sponsor an annual Health & Safety Fair, and host 16-20 community-based vendors to provide free health screening services to our employees and their families. These include: blood sugar and cholesterol checks, body fat assessments, vision screens, and other diagnostics.

We sponsor annual "Morgan Nick Picture I.D. Days," open to minor relatives of our employees. Database information, developed in cooperation with area Law Enforcement, a digital picture and thumb-prints are loaded on floppies and provided free of charge to our employees.

International Paper/Conway employees are offered CPR/AED classes each year. Being good citizens is part of our commitment and we ask our Team members to give something back to our communities. We host four blood drives each year.

VPP (Voluntary Protection Program) drives safety awareness in our facility and we take it a step further to promote safe and healthy choices outside of our work environment.

SST TRAINING HELD IN LITTLE ROCK

The Arkansas Department of Labor's (ADOL) OSHA Consultation Division, in conjunction with federal OSHA in Little Rock, recently hosted two training seminars for companies specifically targeted by the U.S. Department of Labor because of their higher than average injury and illness rates.

As we reported in our last issue of *Safety News*, in an effort to provide assistance, federal OSHA notified 14,200 employers across the U.S. that they had injury and illness rates higher than average in 2001. Nationwide, the average U.S. workplace had just under three lost-time instances for every 100 workers. Workplaces receiving the alert letters had six or more injuries and illnesses resulting in lost workdays or restricted activity for every 100 full-time workers.

Of the 217 Arkansas companies on the list, 78 companies sent a total of 129 employees to attend the free ADOL one-day seminars on such topics as recordkeeping, machine guarding, personal protective equipment, ergonomics, lock out/tag out and more. These topics were specifically chosen by coordinators Kim Fischer and Leo Swaby because of their association with the most accidents, and the likelihood that they would be most beneficial in assisting companies in getting off the list in the future.

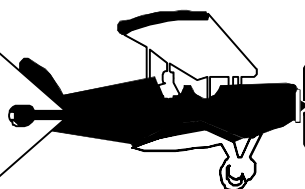
When asked about the program, attendee Troy Williams with H & M International, Inc. said "I gained insight into how the inspectors think. In turn, it should allow me to view my facilities from their viewpoint."

"We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to attend this and the Department of Labor's shared commitment to the safety and health of all our workers here in Arkansas," said Diane Gasaway, Complex Safety Manager with Tyson Foods in Dardanelle.

Michael Brooks with Comfort Systems, USA said, "I was so pleased with the program and information I received. The instructors were true professionals covering many subjects in too short of a day!"

For information on upcoming site-specific target training, contact Kim Fischer or Leo Swaby at 501-682-4523 or Paul Hansen at the U.S. Department of Labor Little Rock Office, 501- 324-6291.

**Safety News Soon To Be
Available On-Line!**
Look for details on how to make the
transition in the next issue...



YOUTH RULES!!!

With summer here, millions of teens have gone to work. And as employers, parents, and educators, it is our job to assure they have a safe and rewarding experience. Federal and State rules are in place to do just that by limiting the hours teens can work and the types of jobs they can work. The U.S. Department of Labor has a comprehensive website at www.youthrules.dol.gov/ with information on Federal Child Labor laws. State laws are as follows:

ARKANSAS CHILD LABOR LAWS

Work permits must be obtained and on file for all 14 and 15 year-olds. Call the Arkansas Department of Labor at 682-4501 for more information.

Work Hours for 14 and 15 year-olds

When school is in session next day
8 hrs per day,
6 days/48 hrs per week
6 a.m. – 7 p.m.
When school is not in session
next day
8 hrs per day,
6 days/48 hrs per week
6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Work restrictions for 15 year olds and under – They cannot:

Cook or bake
Operate power equipment including mowers or weed eaters
Climb ladders
Work on construction sites
Work in warehousing and storage
Work in manufacturing, mining, or processing operations
Operate a motor vehicle or serve as helpers on such vehicles

Permitted work hours for 16-17 year-olds

When school is in session next day
10 hrs per day,
6 days/54 hrs per week
6 a.m. – 11 p.m.
(When school is not in session next day)

Everything is the same except there is no limit to how late the minor can work.

Federal laws may be more restrictive. For federal child labor laws call 1-866-4US-WAGE

PENALTIES – *contd. from page 1*
equipment to be de-energized prior to performing work. A serious violation is one in which there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result. An other-than-serious violation was cited for failing to ensure that open-sided floors and platforms were properly guarded.

Citations for the health inspection included three alleged willful, 15 serious, and two other-than-serious violations. The willful health violations were for failing to ensure that employees exposed to being struck by molten metal used proper clothing, foot protection and appropriate personal protective equipment.

Among the alleged serious health violations were failure to ensure that employees were prohibited from entering danger zones without proper personal protective equipment; failure to prevent employees from stepping or falling into furnace metal wells while performing maintenance; not ensuring that work areas were kept clean and orderly; not providing hearing protection to employees overexposed to noise; failure to provide emergency eyewash and body shower facilities and failure to develop and implement a proper hazard communications program. The two other-than-serious health violations were for failing to ensure that exits were properly marked and failing to develop and implement a proper respiratory protection program.

The second company, a marine cargo handling facility in Central Arkansas, was cited with three alleged willful, 15 serious and two other-than-serious violations resulting in proposed penalties of \$198,450.

The three alleged willful violations were for failing to test the atmosphere within a silo, bin, or tank prior to entry and properly train employees prior to their entry into a silo, bin or tank; failing to ensure that confined spaces were tested for oxygen content prior to entry and that employees were properly trained prior to entry in those spaces.

Some of the 15 alleged serious violations were for failing to ensure employees entering bins, silos or tanks were provided with and used body harnesses with lifelines; safety devices on industrial trucks were operative; moving winch parts were adequately guarded, appropriate stop controls were provided on winches; guardrails were provided for floor or wall openings; power supply to machines was locked and/or tagged out prior to servicing the machines and employees were provided and used appropriate eye protection and person flotation devices.

Both companies had 15 days from receipt of the citations to comply, request an informal conference with the Little Rock area director or contest the citations and penalties before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

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JAMES L. SALKELD, DIRECTOR

JEANETTE DONAHUE, EDITOR

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(l to r) Freddy Miller, Mary Louise Fiser, Director of Labor James L. Salkeld, Mark Clinton, and David Scharfenberg

AMUSEMENT RIDE ADVISORY BOARD MEETS

The first meeting of the state's Amusement Ride Advisory Board was held June 19 at the Arkansas Department of Labor (ADOL). The board was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee and is made up of the following:

- Richard Davies, Director of the Department of Parks and Tourism
- Freddy Miller who represents

owners or operators of amusement rides which are portable in nature

- David Scharfenberg who represents owners or operators of permanently placed amusement rides
- Mary Louise Fiser who represents fair managers in Arkansas, and
- Mark Clinton who represents the general public.

Director of Labor James L. Salkeld is ex officio chairman of the board.

The purpose of the board is to assist the Director of Labor with the formulation of rules and regulations regarding the safe operation of amusement rides; and to give the Arkansas Department of Labor counsel and advice as will aid it in the proper enforcement and administration of the provisions of the Amusement Ride Safety Law.

The ADOL's AOSH (Arkansas Occupational Safety and Health) Division inspects all amusement rides in Arkansas. During the 2001-2002 fiscal year, 231 amusement ride facilities were inspected and a total of 713 violations cited.

A STAR IS BORN IN SEARCY

In February, Maytag Appliance, Searcy Laundry Products in Searcy became the first North American laundry plant and the first Maytag plant to receive the Star Award from the U.S. Department of Labor OSHA.

A Star Award in part of federal OSHA's VPP (Voluntary Protection Program) which was designed to recognize and promote effective safety and health management. In the VPP, management, labor and OSHA establish a cooperative relationship at a workplace that has implemented a strong program.

Approval into VPP is OSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health. Only 951 companies across the country have received this approval to date. The average VPP worksite has a lost workday incidence rate 52% below the average for its industry.